Public Works.

18. In 1104, the expenditure on the Public Works Department was higher than in any previous year. The expenditure on ordinary public works charged to revenue amounted to Rs. 42 lakhs nearly, of which a sum of Rs. 25·80 lakhs was spent on communications. Of this, the amount devoted to construction was Rs. 16·24 lakhs and that spent on repairs was Rs. 9·56 lakhs. 48 miles of road were newly opened and 282 miles improved. The total length of communications maintained was 4,852 miles. The Neriamangalam-Pallivasal road, estimated to cost Rs. 14·26 lakhs in all, made good progress and will, when completed, provide a good ghat road fit for motor lorries and facilitate access to the Cochin Harbour and the backwaters from the planting districts in the High Range. The expenditure on buildings was Rs. 7·38 lakhs, of which educational buildings consumed tha largest share. A sum of Rs. 15·29 lakhs was spent besides on works of a capital nature, *viz.*, the Trivandrum Water Works (Rs. 8·55 lakhs), the Trivandrum Electric Supply and Telephone Schemes (Rs. 3·02 laks) and the construction of the bridge across the Neendakara Bar (Rs. 3·72 lakhs). Including the capital outlay and the expenditure on contribution works, the total amount spent by the P. W. D. during 1104 was Rs. 52·16 lakhs.

Road Boards.

19. It was stated at the last session of the Assembly that Government proposed to organise a Roads and Waterways Board for each P. W. Division and a Central Board for the whole State in each of which representatives of the people will be associated. The rules for the creation of these Boards have now been issued and their functions comprise the whole province of inland communications, as they can tender advice in the matter of the opening, improvement and maintenance of roads, bridges and waterways in the State. Copies of the Rules and of the Government Proceedings publishing the rules have been made available to you and you will find therefrom that all the representatives of taluks and of the planting interests in the High Range are *ex officio* members of their respective District Boards and that six of you to be elected by the District Boards are on the Central Board. The constitution of the Boards has been so framed that official experience and local knowledge as well as the wishes of the people's representatives may exercise adequate influence in the preparation of the annual programme for the development of communications. I trust that the Boards will prove of great help to the Government and the people in working out a more definite and systematic policy for the expansion of communications.

Trivandrum Water Works.

20. Estimates and plans for the Water Works had been prepared in 1921. But they were found to require revision and Mr. C. Balakrishna Rao, Executive Engineer, was deputed for the work. The revised estimates prepared by him and approved by the Chief Engineer have

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been sanctioned by the Government. The total estimated cost of the work is Rs. 52·97 lakhs. The work is so designed as to be capable of serving a population of 135,000, the estimated population of Trivandrum in the year 1961 and an area of 11·22 square miles. The portion of the work that is being immediately taken up will cover only an area of 8 square miles and will cost Rs 46·60 lakhs. A sum of Rs. 9·08 lakhs was spent till the end of 1104. The expenditure has been incurred mostly on the purchase of the pipes required for the main gravitation line from Aruvikara to Vellayambalam and for the payment of compensation for lands acquired. The Water Works Engineer hopes to complete the work by the end of 1107 M. E.

Railway Extension.

21. The extension of the railway from Chackai to Tampanur in the heart of the town is estimated to cost Rs. 18·82 lakhs. The expenditure during 1104 was Rs. 5·85 lakhs and the total amount spent up to the end of that year Rs. 7·55 lakhs. Fair progress has been made in the construction of the Central Station and of the bridges and it is anticipated by the Railway Engineer that the work will be completed by the end of 1930 and that the first train may be expected to run before we meet again next year.

Electric Supply Schemes.

22. One of the most successful capital undertakings financed by the Government in recent years is the Trivandrum Electric Supply Scheme which has now been in operation for just over a year, the Power House having been opened informally on the evening of the 25th February 1929. In less than a fortnight thereafter, 541 street lights and 2 consumers were connected up, the supply of current being then confined to the first six hours of the night. From the middle of Edavam 1104, all-night supply was arranged; and from the beginning of 1105, the full twenty-four hours' supply commenced. By the end of Makaram 1105, there were 976 street lights, and 375 private consumers and 113 Government institutions supplied with electric power. The total length of line erected is 26 miles of overhead low tension mains and 4¼ miles of high tension underground feeders. There are three generating sets installed in the Power House. An additional generating set to meet the increasing demand from private consumers will be added to the existing plant soon. The total outlay on the scheme, including land compensation, was Rs. 4·41 lakhs till the end of Makaram 1105. In schemes of this nature, the working results for the first year will seldom be remunerative owing to the limited demand for power; but it may interest you to hear that the financial results of the first six months indicate a net return sufficient to cover depreciation and interest on the capital investment—the accounts being kept as in an ordinary commercial concern—and that the net profits would accrue to the general revenues. Other towns have not been slow to take up the idea. A license has been granted to a private agency in Kottayam

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